

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes
September 20, 2018

Commission Members Present:

Scott Markow
Joan Hash
Hector Garcia
Shiraz Ahmed
Bianca Chang
Kui Zhao

Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner
Shivani Aghera
Bob Ford
Peter Hwang

Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, Recording Secretary
Dr. Barbara J. Sands, HRC Executive Secretary
Cynthia Peltzman, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Vice Chair Shiraz chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Reverend Turner.

2. PUBLIC FORUM – Vice Chair Shiraz, members and Dr. Sands thanked former Commissioner Opel for his years of service, and wished him all the best with his future plans.

3. APPROVE MINUTES – July minutes approved.

4. CHAIR’S REPORT – No report submitted by Chair or Vice Chair.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Please review reports prior to the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the reports submitted, please bring your questions to the meeting. (**Reports submitted)

- ❖ Finance and Fair Lending with Housing – Scott/Shiraz – No report. Per Scott, a Red-lining exhibit is on display at the Central Library 2nd Floor. Red-lining was a practice in the 1920’s/30s where housing policies, or the county zoning board would draw lines to limit certain zones/areas to certain ethnic and racial groups.
- ❖ **Legislation – Bob/Kui – Kui submitted hard copy. Kui highlighted State legislation (SB0029) CH0733 State Government – Websites- Language Access effective June 1, 2018. When Kui served on the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs years ago, she and a few commissioners testified to support this bill that was introduced then. This year, the bill passed. This legislation requires state departments, agencies and programs on the state website(s) to offer multiple translations (languages) for non-English speaking citizens. Dr. Sands stated that she receives legislative reports/updates each month on what the county council has voted on. Dr. Sands will forward the information to all members as she receives it.
- ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner, Shivani – No report.
- ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – No report. Bianca encouraged all members to circulate the HRC Award link to your networks, neighbors, and friends.
- ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – No report. Per Dr. Sands, there is a Fall training workshop being held sponsored by the HT Committee within the Community Resources department. There is no fee to attend, however, registration is required. More information will be forwarded to all members.
- ❖ **LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob’s written report.
- ❖ **Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – Written report submitted. Open enrollment for health care access will continue through December.
- ❖ **HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – Per Dr. Sands, correspondence drafted by Peter, and approved by all members was mailed to all community groups submitted by HRC members. Per Dr. Sands, Commissioner Bianca translated the OHR/HRC brochure in Chinese. Dr. Sands requested Commissioner Hector to translate the brochure in Spanish.
- ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan, Shivani – No report. Per Dr. Sands, due to the current County Council members’ term for serving expiring at the end of the year, the Council members have decided that they will not confirm any additional new Commissioners to any of the county Commissions now through the end of their term. They are leaving that responsibility to the **new** County Council members who will be elected on November 6, 2018.
- ❖ Community Outreach Sub-Committee – (formed following CR-180 Study) – Peter, Hector – No report. Dr. Sands congratulated Commissioner Hector for being honored by the County Executive for his leadership role and service within the Hispanic community.

5. STUDENT REPORT – No report.

6. STAFF REPORT – See Dr. Sands written report. Per Dr. Sands, there are 3 workshops being held for the Korean community at the Bain Center beginning this Fall through early winter. Topics include: Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking and Sexual Harassment. The workshops are free and open to the public. As Commissioners participate in, and attend community events, please forward that information, along with photographs, etc. to OHR for posting on the HRC website. Bianca will send photos to Dr. Sands of events, programs she attended, along with a brief write-up. Per Dr. Sands, congratulations to 32 Howard County youth who were placed in Howard County positions during the summer months. Bianca is looking for a Chinese student to volunteer in OHR for summer 2019. Narcan training for HRC members can be offered during an upcoming HRC meeting. Please review the HRC calendar to determine which month is best. Further discussion will be held next month.

7. CLOSED SESSION – **See attached.**

8. NEW BUSINESS – Commissioners voted and approved to reschedule the October meeting due to a majority of members who plan to attend the Holland Award dinner on 10/18/18 (the same night as the monthly meeting.) Stephanie will circulate alternative dates to reschedule the Oct. meeting (based on room availability) to determine which date is best for the majority. Per HRC Legal Counsel Cynthia, the Maryland General Assembly passed ERPO law (Extreme Risk Protective Orders) that goes in effect on 10/1/18. ERPO is a court-issued civil order temporarily requiring a person to: (1) surrender any firearms or ammunition to law enforcement; and (2) not purchase or possess firearms or ammunition. With reasonable belief that a person meets the requirements, an ERPO allows the court to refer someone for an emergency evaluation due to mental disorder.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS – N/A

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.